

16. An exposure apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein said processing system further performs sensitivity correction of said photodetector relative to an illuminance on a plane corresponding to a surface of the photosensitive object on the basis of the estimated change of transmittance. --

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-16 are presented for consideration. Claims 1, 9, 12 and 14 are independent.

Claims 14-16 have been added to recite additional features of the subject invention. Support for these claims can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Applicants submit that claims 1-13 patentably define features of the subject invention, at least for the reasons set forth in the Amendment filed on July 2, 2002. In addition to these claims being allowable, Applicants submit that claims 14-16 patentably define features of the exposure apparatus of the present invention. Notably, the cited art is not read to teach or suggest at least the arrangement of the projection optical system and the processing system of the present invention recited in independent claim 14, for example, the processing system estimating a change in transmittance of at least an optical element disposed between a light source and a portion where a photosensitive object is placed, on the basis of information of the pulse energy of the light source, an oscillation frequency of the light source and elapse information of the exposure. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1-16 should be deemed allowable.

Applicants submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and an early passage to issue are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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